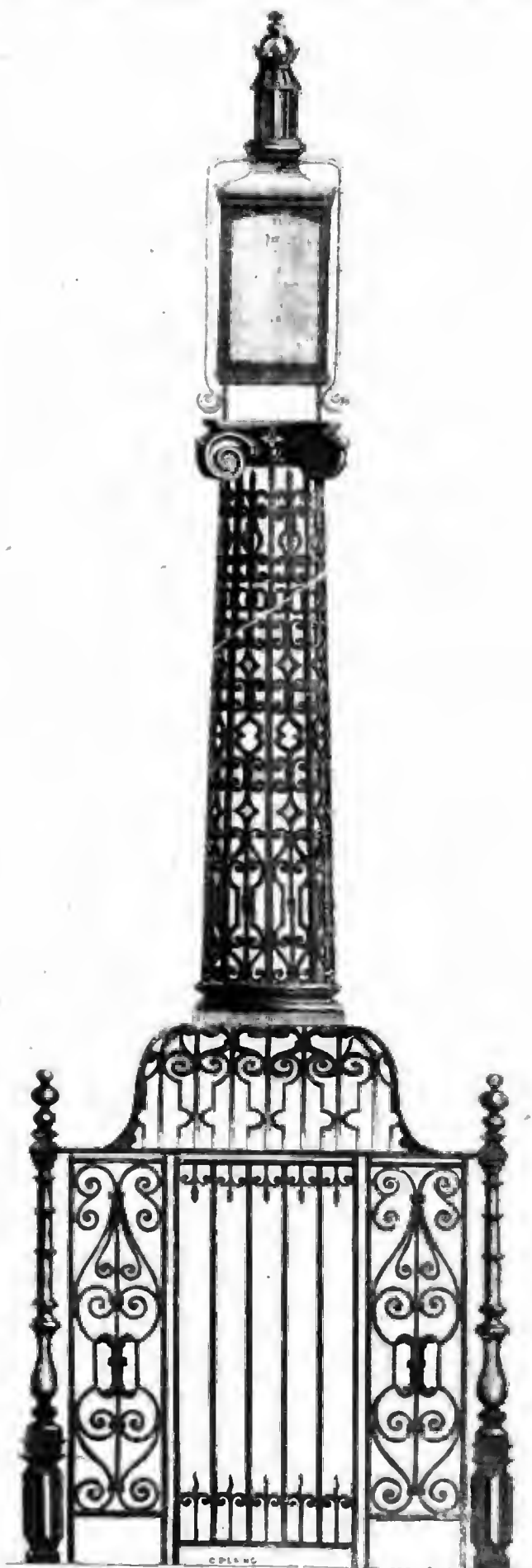


LAMP-POST AND TROPHY FROM CHELSEA HOSPITAL.



IRON LAMP-POST AND TROPHY FROM CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

Sir,—I have been long desirous of adding to the beautiful collection of sketches which have appeared in your journal. The continued publication of judiciously-selected examples from the works of ancient and modern art is of infinite use to the inquiring reader; and forms a very powerful auxiliary to the attempts which the Government is now making to diffuse a correct taste among all classes.

With this idea, I have sent you a drawing of what at first sight may appear a very humble subject. It is but a lamp-post, but it is one designed by the master-hand of Sir Christopher Wren, and it illustrates in a remarkable manner what may be done in small matters by the pencil of genius, and how the admiration of the spectator may be excited without straining after effect, or violating the laws of propriety.

The lamp-post stands in the middle of the west court of Chelsea Hospital. It is of iron, and 19 feet in height; the pedestal 5 feet 8 inches square.

There appears to be no doubt that it is as old as the hospital, the first stone of which was laid by King Charles II., in 1692, and the buildings were completed in 1690, from the design, as is well known, of that unrivalled English architect, Sir Christopher Wren.

Such a composition as this simple stand, placed on two or three steps with proper angle-posts and curb, would make a very much better ornamental centre to some of our public thoroughfares than many which have been put up of late years. Compare it, for instance, with the strange affair at Charing-cross, the lodgings at the end of the Poultry, the Wraithman block, or that poor dead departed monument they have just pulled down at Battle-bridge (I suppose because it was so ugly, as to make the nimbus horses shy at it) with its statue of George IV., immortalized by the satiric needle of George Cruikshank as resembling at a distant view a sack of flour, and at a nearer approach Dusty Bohm in a blanket.

As an inhabitant of Chelsea, I may perhaps be excused for my excessive admiration of Wren's noble building; I devoutly believe, and I know several eminent architects are of the same opinion, that the chapel of Chelsea Hospital is a finer work of art than the chapel at Greenwich,—the latter was designed by Athenian Stuart.

I have endeavoured to represent in my smaller sketch one of the military trophies



carved in stone at the entrance gates, which are very original and of striking beauty. These sketches from the outside of the building afford some little proof of what might be obtained from the structure itself.

G.